



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/940,534	08/29/2001	Sayling Wen	3626-0221P	4725

2292 7590 03/15/2005

BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH
PO BOX 747
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

REILLY, SEAN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2153

DATE MAILED: 03/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/940,534	WEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sean Reilly	2153	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is in response to Applicant's amendment and request for reconsideration filed on January 21, 2005. Claims 1-21 are presented for further examination. Independent claims 1, 10, and 18 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over D'Souza et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,625,649, hereinafter "D'Souza"), in view of Kao et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,275,944, hereinafter "Kao").

2. In considering claims 1, 10, and 18, D'Souza discloses an automatic network connecting system, method, and computer-readable storage medium comprising:

- a means for storing user private data and network connection public data (Col 7, lines 46-53);
- a means for accessing the user private data and the network connection public data from a storage means (Col 7, lines 46-53);

- a user interface module for providing at least one prompt, so that a user can input a network service request according to the prompt in one touch (Fig 4, Components 82, 84, 86, and 88; Col 2, lines 37-43), the user interface module being a program module (Col 2, lines 40-43);
- a responding module for receiving the network service request (Col 7, lines 16-19) and accessing the user private data and the network connection public data stored in the database through the data managing module according to the network service request to complete the network service requested by the user automatically (Col 7, lines 23-25, 46-53, 60-66).

While D'Souza discloses a means for storing/accessing user private data and network connection data, D'Souza does not disclose specifically how this data is stored or accessed. Nonetheless, the feature of storing and accessing such data in a database is well known, as evidenced by Kao. In a similar art, Kao discloses a network connection system, wherein two databases are used to store/access user private data and network connection public data (Col 2, lines 44-47 and 52-66). Kao further discloses that the connection system provides the benefit of securely retrieving all the passwords for a user from secure storage and automatically issuing sign-on to a network (Col 2, lines 56-60). Thus, given the teaching of Kao, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to design the D'Souza system to utilize a set of databases for the storage/access of user private data and network connection public data, in order to provide for secure password storage and automatic network sign-on.

3. In considering claim 2, Kao discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the database comprises:

- a private sub-database for storing the user private data; and a public sub-database for storing the network connection public data (Col 2, lines 42-47).

4. In considering claim 3, Kao discloses the system of claim 2, wherein the data managing module comprises:

- a private data managing sub-module for accessing the user private data stored in the private sub-database; and a public data managing sub-module for accessing the network connection public data stored in the public sub-database (Col 2, lines 52-60).

5. In considering claims 4, 12, 13, 19, and 20, Kao discloses a network-connecting sub-module for establishing a network connection; and a network-disconnecting sub-module for disconnecting an established network connection (Col 7, line 29-30).

6. In considering claim 5, D'Souza discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the network service request comprises a web page browsing request (Col 7, line 57).

7. In considering claim 6, D'Souza discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the one touch comprises a hitting of a key on a keyboard (Col 2, line 33).

8. In considering claims 7 and 15, D'Souza discloses the system and method wherein

- the user private data comprise an ID and a password of the user (Col 6, lines 3-4); and
- the network connection public data comprise the IP address of a server (Col 7, lines 57-58). A URL address will inherently be converted to an IP address and is therefore considered to be one in the same.

9. In considering claims 8, 9, 16, and 17, D'Souza discloses the system and method wherein the server is an HTTP server or the server is an ISP server (Col 7, lines 57-58).

Art Unit: 2153

10. In considering claim 11, as stated above the term “judging” is ambiguous. Claim 11 is interpreted to read the method of claim 10 further comprising: identifying the type of network service requested (D’Souza Col 3, lines 16-21).

11. In considering claims 14 and 21, D’Souza discloses the method and computer-readable storage medium further comprising:

- receiving the user private data and the network connection public data input by the user (Col 2, lines 40-43); and
- storing the user private data and the network connection public data input by the user into the database (Col 2, lines 40-43).

Response to Arguments

12. In response to Applicant’s request for reconsideration filed on January 21, 2005, the following factual arguments are noted:

- a. The Examiner has inappropriately interpreted the input keys of D’Souza to be analogous to the user input module of the claimed invention.

In considering (a), Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant’s argument.

Applicant contends that the input keys of D’Souza are not analogous to the input module of the claimed invention because the claimed invention user interface module *is a program module*.

The user interface module of the D’Souza system *is a program module* executed by pressing a button on the keyboard, Col 2, lines 40-43. The Applicant has incorrectly interpreted the limitation “the user interface module being a program module” to require that “*prompts* are not

Art Unit: 2153

fixed on any hardware or input devices such as a keyboard” (Applicant response pg 10 ¶ 3). The user interface module and user prompt are not one in the same and are unrelated. It appears the applicant intended to further limit the claimed invention to only on screen prompts within the system graphical user interface, however no such limitation was added to the amended claims.

Additionally the arguments presented by the Applicant on pg 10 ¶ 2, specifically the indicia of a prompt or the memorization of keys, are considered moot since they fail to discuss any feature of the currently claimed invention. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

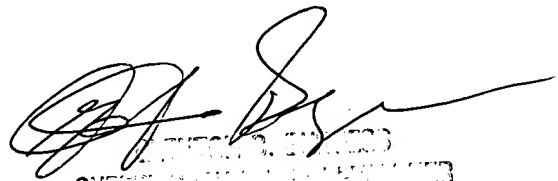
Art Unit: 2153

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sean Reilly whose telephone number is 571-272-4228. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glen Burgess can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


3/4/2005


SEAN REILLY, EXAMINER
SUPERVISOR, EXAMINER
TECHNICAL CENTER 2153